

Appln. No. Serial No. 09/654,638
Amdt. Dated 11/8/04
First Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of 7/6/2004
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REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-5, 8-9, 13, 17, and 21 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected Claims 6-7, 10-12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), rejected Claim 9 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), allowed Claims 1-5, and indicated that Claims 8, 13, 17, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Moreover, the Examiner objected to Claims 1, 9, and 19 for some informalities. The Applicants cancelled rejected Claims 6-7, 10-12, 14-16, and 18-20, and amended Claims 8, 13, 17, and 21 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants amended Claim 9 to depend from Claim 8, and amended Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 13, 17, and 21 to clarify the claimed invention. Accordingly, Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 19 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Brenda O. Holmes
Reg. No. 40,339

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530
Telephone: (404) 815-6500
Facsimile: (404) 815-6555
Our Docket: 44471-234055